



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

Climate, Biodiversity & Nature Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7pm

[Held online via Teams](#)

NOTES

In Attendance

Cllr Y Miéville (chair)	Cllr A Cross
Cllr H Miéville	Cllr T Clarkson
Cllr M Putt	Cllr S Chapman
Nicci Brown	Janet Tyson
Linda Scott-Giles	Becci Brady
Stuart Atkins, The Eco Coffee Company	

1. Apologies

Cllr S Hitchings	Cllr R Holmes
Cllr B Quayle	

2. Stuart Atkins, The Eco Coffee Company

Stuart gave a talk on 28th November to a group of Councillors on his products and the impact that these products have on the environment. He kindly agreed to come to this meeting to share his knowledge with the rest of the group. The company's key objective is to reduce the use of single use coffee cups, and they primarily sell to cafes.

Initially they used plastic lined reuseable coffee cups. These had quite a low uptake with their customers even when offering a discount on their coffee in return for using this product. This needs to be recycled at a separate recycling plant which has added costs to the business. This product costs the business owner 7p per cup.

They then tried compostable coffee cups, but they were only commercially compostable so these must also go to a separate recycling facility which again needs to be separated from waste. There is currently only one facility in the country that provides this service, so it's not had much interest. This product costs the business owner 10p per cup.

Five years ago, they introduced a cup that is both compostable and recyclable but is imported from China where 95% of cups are imported from. It has a liquid that soaks into the cardboard instead of having a lining but if it ends up in the environment it does breakdown. This product costs the business owner 10p per cup.

Their new UK made cup is what they really would like to introduce to their customers and promote to new businesses. It has the advantage of having a much lower carbon footprint being made in the UK and is certified plastic free, these will be in stock in the next few weeks. This product costs the business owner 12p per cup.

In terms of introducing the new cup to businesses in Blandford, there has so far been an uptake of less than 10%. They are keen to sell to bigger institutions.

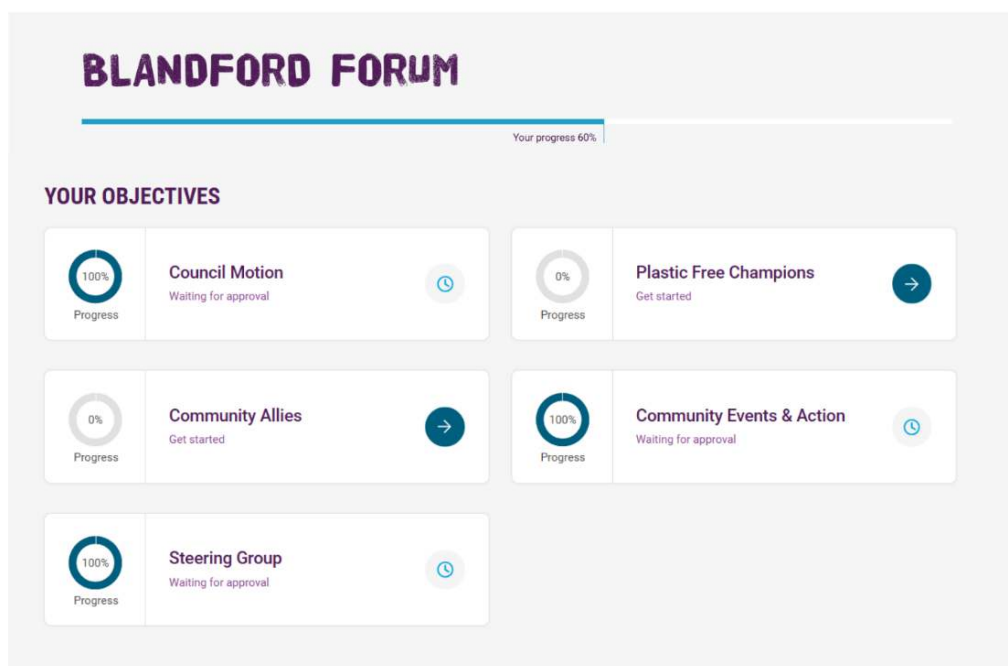
Stuart is open to taking any questions about his products and would appreciate any help spreading the word to have these environmentally friendly products being used in Blandford.

3. Update on 'Plastic Free Community' status

The Eco Coffee Company has agreed to sign up and will be in touch with us after Christmas to discuss further.

The Town Clerk has provided us with the image below which is taken from the plastic free online dashboard that she has updated.

Yvonne explained that the aim is to have 20 allies and 6 businesses to sign up and will provide the group with a list of these in the hope that the load can be shared in encouraging people to sign up.



**Community Allies
(4/20 so far)**

Nourish
Blandford Repair Cafe
Blandford Community Fridge
Disability Action Group

**Plastic Free Champions
(1/6 so far)**

The Eco Coffee Company

4. Update from Blandford War on Waste/Clean up Blandford

Litter picking is currently suspended during the winter months due to a lack of volunteers and unpredictable weather, with the exception of the Yuletide Festival. Some members have volunteered their time to help if another litter pick is organised this winter. It was pointed out that there has been a decrease in litter around the town since the War on Waste team started.

5. Update from Blandford + NP group

No Updates

6. Any other updates

No Updates

7. To agree next steps

Yvonne to share the Plastic Free Communities organisations/businesses list.

8. Date of next meeting

Next Meeting scheduled on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00pm on Teams